

LEPIDOPTERA IN STAFFORDSHIRE IN 1977. — Experience in Staffordshire was much in line with that in Shropshire reported by Mr. D. J. Smith (*Ent. Rec.*, 90: 85). The first three weeks in June were almost a blank and I quite failed to see many of the usual local species such as *Hypena crassalis* F.

Results from moth traps in late June and through July were variable, but there were some notable features, one concerning two very common species, *Agrotis exclamationis* L. and *Noctua pronuba* L. The first was even more abundant than usual, 135 of this species out of 200 moths in a garden actinic trap being fairly typical; the second hardly appeared at all before August and was then far below its usual numbers. *Agrotis puta puta* Hübn., which until recently had been rather scarce in Staffordshire, was common, and *Dypterygia scabriuscula* L., of which there had been no record for a number of years, turned up in several places.

The weekend of 22nd/23rd July produced two species of which there was no previous record for the county, both at actinic lights in warm, humid conditions. *Pammene fasciana* L. was among 84 species on Cannock Chase, and Mr. D. Emley had an *Eilema sericea* Gregs. in his trap at Trent Vale, on the edge of the Stoke-on-Trent conurbation. The nearest locality I know for this species, Whixall Moss in Shropshire, is 25 miles away; it would be interesting to know if there have been other instances of its occurrence as a vagrant.

Among butterflies, most interesting have been reports of *Strymonidia w-album* Knoch from so many places as to suggest that it must now inhabit most woods in the north of the county where there is wych elm. Dutch elm disease is present in the area and some wych elms have been affected, but so far not to anything like the extent that one sees on the common elms farther south. Is this situation promoting a northward movement on the part of the butterfly? — R. G. WARREN, Wood Ridings, 32 Whitmore Road, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 8AP.

PHLOGOPHORA METICULOSA L. AND OTHER HETEROCERA AT WISSETT, SUFFOLK, IN 1977. — Mr. Skinner's note (*Ent. Rec.*, 90: 87) regarding the abundance of larvae of *P. meticulosa* L. at Torquay in December 1977 prompts me to record that the imagines of this species were very numerous here at Wissett during October. I recorded the species at my light trap from 4th June to 11th July, and then again in larger numbers (presumably immigrants?), from 10th-26th October. In general, 1977 was a poor year for moths with many normally common species scarce or even absent. However, certain species seemed to fare rather better than usual: notably *P. meticulosa* L., as already mentioned, *Crocallis elinguaris* L., *Phalera bucephala* L., *Lacanobia oleracea* L. and *Eremobia ochroleuca* D. & S. Few migrants of any note occurred but unusual records included *Xestia castanea* Esp., *Eupithecia indigata* Hübn. and *Bupalus piniaria* L. — F. B. S. Antram, Valley Farm, Wissett, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 0JJ.